Upazila roundup

JHENIDAH

Killing of JCD leader protested

Sept 20 : About 500 activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out processions protesting the killing of local JCD leader Shahjahan Noor Mithu here on September 19, reports UNB.

The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town and staged two and half hour's sit-in demonstration in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office.

Later they held a protest meeting at the same venue with Anwarul Islam Badsha in the chair and handed over a memorandum to the DC demanding immediate arrest of the killers of Mithu.

To avoid the untoward incident the authorities were forced to suspend the classes in the educational institutions of the town, the sources added.

PATUAKHALI

Over 1.60 lakh saplings distributed

Sept 20 : Forest Department has distributed over 1.60 lakh saplings among the people as part of the afforestation programme during the current season, reports UNB.

Informed sources said, about 1700 acres of land is being brought under intensive afforestation in the coastal areas of the district.

Of the total, 1200 acres will be brought under Keroa planting and the rest under various fruit and flower bearing plants.

Besides, Forest Department has taken up a programme to produce over 4 lakh saplings in its nurseries at Patuakhali, Barguna for distribution among the people next year.

The local people urged the authorities to ensure successful implementation of the afforestation programme in the char areas of the district, severely hit by the last cyclone.

BARISAL

2774 couples sterilized

Sept 20 : A total of 2774 fertile couples were sterilized under permanent Family Planning method in 10 upazilas of the district during the last fiscal year, reports UNB.

Official sources said, the percentage of permanent sterilization as regards fertile couples stood at 58 during the stipulated period.

It is reported that the sources of the programme was achieved due to coordinated efforts of Union Welfare Centres, Model Clinics, BAVS centres, Health Complexes and local hospitals.

NARAIL

Jute growers incur loss

Sept 20 : Jute is now being sold in the district below production cost causing heavy loss to the growers, reports UNB.

The price is between Tk 210 and Tk 240 per maund in different hats and bazars of the district.

A farmer spent Tk 2000 for cultivation of the jute on one bigha of land but he got a return of Tk 1000 by selling jute produced in the land.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, about 24000 acres of land have been brought under jute cultivation this year but the production was not satisfactory.

On the other hand the BJMC did not start buying of jute in Narail. As a result, merchants are purchasing jute at a very lower prices.

MAGURA

One held on murder charge

Sept 20 : Sreepur police arrested one Tuakkel Ali Biswas on charge of murdering village headman of Dariapur, reports UNB.

The victim, Abdul Khaleque was kidnapped from his house on May 5, by some miscreants who killed him later and threw the body into a crop-field.

Police arrested one Golam Mostafa Biswas, on suspicion and on the basis of his statement rounded up Tuakkel Ali Biswas of village Beroil Palita in Sadar upazila recently.

Sreepur police said the arrested people in their statements to the upazila magistrate admitted having committed the murder.

RANGAMATI

2 burnt to death

Sept 20: A mother and her baby were roasted alive in a fire which broke out at Matiranga of Khagrachari Hill district Tuesday last, reports UNB.

According to Upazila administration, the victim, Ambia Khatun (25), wife of Babul Miah, was caught in the fire while working in a nursery in Matiranga upazila head quarter.

Her 8 month old baby was with her.

Te fire burnt to ashes two houses and other properties worth about Taka seven lakh.

No reason for the incident could be immediately known, the sources added.

MANIKGANJ

Hospital needs care

Sept 20 : The 50-bed Sadar Hospital is beset with manifold problems causing immense suffering to the patients, reports UNB.

Patients coming from far flung areas are deprived of treatment due to lack of medicine, necessary equipment and shortage of doctors.

In absence of anaesthetist and blood bank, condition of surgical patients have become more precarious.

The lone sterilization machine and air cooler had also been lying out of order for a long time.

Besides, number of doctors is not adequate to cope with the increasing number of patients. Many of the doctors also remain absent adding miseries of the patients.

Patients complained that they are compelled to buy medicines from outsiders at an exorbitant price.

RANGPUR

3 jailed for murder

Sept 20 : Three people were given life term in a murder case Wednesday with a fine of Tk 5000 each and six months rigorous imprisonment in default, reports UNB.

The sentence was awarded in the court of Sessions and District Judge Abdur Rahman Patwari.

The convicted persons are Serajul Islam, Hafizur Rahman and Mahbubur Rahman.

According to the prosecution, the accused killed Saiful Islam on December 16, 1990 at Gongachara upazila where he went to buy seeds.

Saiful, who was visiting his in-laws at time was called out of the house and murdered.

After two days police recovered the body from the nearby village Mohipur in Luxmitary union of the same upazila.

CHANDPUR

Bid to loot rifles foiled

Sept 20 : Ansars foiled a bid to loot rifles from them on a passenger launch on its way to Dhaka recently, police said today, reports UNB.

Ansar Mokshed Ali was missing and feared drowned in the river Meghna after attempting to resist the miscreants.

A group of miscreants travelling in disguise of passengers on MV Sonali attacked the launch with about 200 passengers on board near Koralia village Sunday night.

Two members of the gang, Manik Howlader and Ali Akbar, were however, caught and handed over to the local police.

BRAHMANBARIA

Attack on newsman condemned

Sept 20 : The local Press Club and Sangbadik Samity at a meeting Thursday condemned the attack on journalist Saddiqur Rahman, reports UNB.

A group of miscreants attacked Saddiqur Rahman in the press club bhavan when he was attending a meeting.

He was assaulted in connection with a news item on kidnapping of a girl published in the daily "Sangbad".

Speakers at the meeting condemned the attack and demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Police, later rushed in and took control of the situation.

People have to spend a huge amount of money every year in protecting dwelling houses from heavy current of water in the haor areas during the monsoon. Photo shows a traditional bamboo palisade at a village in Sunamganj Sadar upazila to protect dwellings. — Photo by M Iqbal Siddique

Floods cause extensive damage to lives, property

RANGPUR, Sept 20: Recent flood due to heavy downpour and onrush of river water caused extensive damage to lives, properties and crops in all eight upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

According to official sources, six unidentified persons including two children died during the flood. Of them, three died in Sadar upazila, one in Mithapukur upazila and two in Bodorganj upazila of the district.

District administration sources said, flood water engulfed 58 out of 83 unions of the district affecting about 7 lakh and 50 thousand people.

Most of these people are passing their days in great distress and scarcity of food, pure drinking water, cloth, medicare and shelter.

Standing crops on 80,000 acres of land were completely and 68,000 acres partially damaged by the flood water. Besides, 2,000 acres of sugarcane and 9,259 acres of cotton field were damaged by the flood water. About 36 cattle-head also died in the flood.

Seven kilometer pucca and 1,050 kilometers kutcha road were damaged by the flood water.

Besides, 85 bridges and 169 culverts were damaged during the flood. About 15,000 houses were totally and 28,269 partially damaged by flood water.

According to the Water Development Board, onrush of water washed away 300 feet of gigantic flood protection embankment at Mohitpur under Gangachara upazila.

District administration so far sanctioned Tk 1 lakh and 25 thousand, 470 metric tons of wheat and 120 metric tons of rice as gratuitous relief.

Madaripur

A report from Madaripur says: The flood situation in the district is improving gradually following the recession of waters from the four badly affected upazilas.

The four upazilas are Sadar, Kalkini, Shibchar and Rajoir.

The river Arial Khan is still flowing 25 cm above the danger mark. A number of villages along the bank of the river Padma have gone to the river bed due to continuous erosion.

According to informed sources, about 1000 families of Charjanajat union of Shibchar upazila have been rendered homeless as over two square miles area were devoured by the river Padma during the last few days.

Standing crops on 20,000 areas have been destroyed and over 200 dwelling houses damaged by the flood water. In the district about 200 kilometre areas went under flood water.

Besides, erosion of Arial Khan river at Kalatali trawler ghat area have taken a serious turn.

Narail

A message from Narail states: Flood situation remained unchanged in Lohagara upazila of the district but deteriorated in Kalia upazila.

According to the Deputy Commissioner, about 246 houses were inundated in villages of Azamnagar, Salnagar, Siarbar and Makrail on Lohagara upazila.

The DC visited the affected areas Tuesday and said that crops on about 200 acres of land have been damaged by flood water of Madhumati.

Meanwhile, erosion of the river Nabaganga has taken a serious turn. At least 25 houses of villages Patna and Mahajan have been washed away Tuesday and so far 500 people rendered shelterless.

Pabna

A Pabna report adds: At least 6,000 people of Iswardi upazila were rendered homeless due to flood and erosion by the river Padma during the last 15 days.

According to the Upazila Chairman, the villages Mazdiar, Daparia and old Iswardi were already washed away by the river Padma.

The affected villages were Mohalder para, School para, Munsi para, Gosh para and Shara, he added.

About 5,000 people took shelter on Iswardi Town Protection Embankment.

Government has sanctioned only Tk 70,000 for distribution among the erosion victims which was insufficient, the Upazila Chairman added.

The Iswardi Town Protection Embankment, Paksey Ferry Ghat and Ruppur Automatic Energy Centre site were also threatened by the river Padma.

Standing crops on 1450 hactres were washed away during the period.

Naogaon

A correspondent from Naogaon writes: All upazilas covering about 90 unions in the district were badly affected by late monsoon flood due to sharp rise in water level of the rivers Atrai and Chhoto Jumana and incessant rainfall for the last one week.

The worst affected upazilas are Naogaon, Atrai, Raninagar, Manda, Mohadevpur, Badalgachi, Patnitala and Dhamoir hat reported.

More than two lakhs villagers are marooned, it is learnt. The marooned people are passing their days in misery due to short supply of essentials and drinking waters.

At least 4000 houses have been damaged and crops on about 8,000 acres of land destroyed by the flood water.

Ten educational institutions have also been totally damaged.

Eighty per cent of Naogaon municipal areas are under flood waters including Jailkhana and court premises.

Road communications from Naogaon to all upazilas were snapped. About 100 K.M roads have been damaged totally and about 300 square K. M damaged partially, it is further learnt.

Alhaj Md. Shamsuddin Ahmed MP and Mr. Alamgir Kabir MP visited some flood affected areas.

Due to scarcity of pure drinking water flue, dysentery and eye disease broke out in flood affected areas.

Eye disease breaks out in alarming proportion

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Sept 20 : Eye disease has broken out in an alarming proportion throughout the district. In Chuadanga pourashava area almost all members of every family have been attacked with this disease.

It is reported that minimum seven days is required to cure this disease.

Everyday a large number of affected people of all ages is rushing to the local hospitals and dispensaries but returning disappointed for want of medicine. On visit to different parts of the district it was observed that a large number of people is suffering from eye ailments. The disease is spreading rapidly towards rural areas. No effective medicine is available to combat the situation. The doctors are unable to ascertain the cause of the widespread outbreak. Taking advantage of the situation all sorts of eye drops and ointments are being sold at enhanced prices.

Maulvi Bazar

Our Maulvi Bazar Correspondent adds: Eye disease is spreading alarmingly in all the six upazilas of the district.

In the district town and adjacent areas the disease has taken a serious turn and members of almost all the families have been attacked by the disease.

Every day a large number of people of all ages suffering from eye complications are pouring into Maulvi Bazar B.N.S.B. Eye Hospital and different union health complexes. A rural health complex source informed that out of the total patients coming from the all rural areas 25 per cent of them are attacked with the virus. The HSC examinees are the worst sufferers.

An eye specialist of BNSB Eye Hospital informed the Daily Star that the cause of the outbreak of the disease could not be ascertained while it is being cured within seven days. It is alleged that taking advantage of the situations the local medicine traders have enhanced the prices of all remedial medicines in town and rural areas.

Installation ceremony

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Sept 20: The installation ceremony of the newly elected Students Union of Narail Government Victoria College was held in a colourful function in the college premises recently.

An educationist and former Principal of Narail Victoria College Mr. Muazzam Hossain attended as the chief guest and Professor Moklesur Rahman was the special guest while Mr. Shamsher Ali, Principal was in the chair.

It may be mentioned that all the 20 seats of the college students union were bagged by Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A).

The oath-taking ceremony was administered by the Principal.

JHENIDAH : Smuggled Indian sarees seized from a night coach recently. — Star photo

2000 ponds lying unutilised

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 20 : About 2000 ponds in seven upazilas of the district have been lying uncultivated mainly due to dispute among the owners.

According to a reliable source, if these ponds were re-excavated and brought under pisciculture, a huge quantity of fish worth Taka four crores might be produced in the district.

It is mentionable that 60 per cent of ponds are under share ownership have got silted and dried up due to lack of maintenance. On the other hand numerous ponds are lying covered with water hyacinth in which fish cultivation is impossible.

It a comprehensive scheme is not taken a large number of ponds will be left unused incurring heavy loss, the source added.

The sources further said that concerned authorities should come forward with a motivation and approach of co-operative farming to the shareholders of the ponds so that they could realise their loss and get inspiration.

Meanwhile, catching of fish fry is continuing unabatedly in the district shattering the prospect of fish production. Current nets are being used for this purpose. The fish fries are being sold openly in the district town and upazilas hats and bazars at cheap rates despite government ban on catching fish fries below nine inches. Fishes in huge quantities are being marketed every day in all the hats and bazars.

According to the experts, fish scarcity will intensify again in near future due to rampant catching of fries. The law enforcing agencies are yet to take positive steps against these illegal catching.

Sramik union executives

The election of the executive committee of Kalaroa Sramik Paribahan Sramik Union was held in the Kalaroa Upazila Sramik Union office recently.

Following office-bearers were elected in the election : President-Sirajul Islam, Vice President — Md. Abdul Kalam, General Secretary Rabindranath Pal, Assistant General Secretary Azharul Islam, Mufizul Islam, Organising Secretary, Mustafa Wahiduzzaman Publicity Secretary, Mizanur Rahman Road Secretary, Asaduzzaman-Office Secretary.

One killed in road accident

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 20 One person was killed and 10 others were injured, two seriously, when a passengers' bus crushed three autorickshaws simultaneously near Morgapara under Sonargaon upazila 15 km away from Narayanganj.

Eyewitnesses and police said that Hasan (20), a taxi passenger died on the spot when the Dhaka bound bus carrying at least 45 passengers dashed the taxis coming from the opposite direction.

Two taxi drivers Gorge Mia and Dukhia were rushed to Uttamganj health complex in a critical condition.

Diarrhoea epidemic in flood-hit areas

RANGPUR, Sept 20 : Diarrhoea that broke out in an alarming proportion has been spreading in the areas where flood water started receding, reports UNB.

According to unconfirmed reports, about 60 people died of diarrhoea and a thousand others were attacked by the disease in the last seven days.

Of them, nine people were reported dead in Sadar upazila, 20 in Gongachara, 10 in Kaunia, 15 in Bodorganj and six in Taraganj upazilas.

Official sources, however, confirmed four deaths — two in Gangachara, one each in Kaunia and Badarganj upazila and 542 others were attacked.

District Civil Surgeon told UNB that medical teams consisting two doctors and 425 health assistants had already been despatched to cover 81 out of 83 unions of the district.

Scarcity of pure water was said to be the main cause of the outbreak of the disease.

A report from Pabna says : Diarrhoea claimed 29 lives and attacked 785 others in five upazilas of the district during the last fortnight.

Official sources said 84 medical teams were working to combat the spread of the disease in different affected areas of the district.

Upazila-wise break up of deaths were — Atgharia -2, Sathia-10, Bera -5, Sujanagar-11 and Sadar -1, local people said.

When contacted, Civil Surgeon Md Adiluzzaman told UNB that the disease was not in an epidemic form adding that scarcity of drinking water and adulterated food were the main causes behind the spread of diarrhoea.

Meghna erosion turns alarming in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, Sept 20 : Erosion of the river Meghna at Chandpur has taken an alarming turn threatening existence of railway station, launch terminal, and steamer ghat at Nutunbazar, reports BSS.

Half of a century old railway station, hilsha fish market and two adjacent business firms have already gone into the river. Chandpur town protection embankment has been breached at several points. Boulders dropped to stop the erosion along the bank had been washed away by severe current. Puranbazar Girls High School, century-old Hindu temple and 30 business firms were washed away. The erosion has been continuing for the last two days.

Meghna erosion at Haimchar upazila eight miles from Chandpur town rendered about ten thousand people homeless.

Erosion is continuing in this upazila very alarmingly for the last few days. Half of Haimchar Bazar and upazila headquarters have gone into the river which devoured the thana, hospital and other government offices earlier. Some govt offices were shifted to safe places. Erosion has threatened the Taka 80 crore Chandpur irrigation project, one of the biggest irrigation projects in the country. Chandpur irrigation embankment now stands within 200 feet away. If the embankment is washed away about one thousand houses will be damaged. The Deputy Commissioner, Chandpur visited affected areas yesterday.

Government has sanctioned 10 metric tons of rice and four tons of wheat and 200 sarees for about five thousand people who took shelter at irrigation embankment. Badly affected unions of Haimchar upazila are Hanarchar, Ibrahimpur, Sadullapur and Chandra.

Old man slaughtered

JHENIDAH, Sept 20: An old man was allegedly slaughtered to death by a gang of unknown miscreants at village Sabdalpur in Kotchandpur upazila here Sunday night, reports UNB.

Notes from Gaibandha

GAIBANDHA, Sept 20: Flood situation has further deteriorated in Sadar, Sadullapur, Palashbari and Gobindagonj upazilas of the district, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, a crack has developed on Karotoa flood control embankment at Tongradha under Palashbari upazila.

Sluice gate on the Brahmaputra flood control embankment at Rasulpur and Sundargong upazila sadar has been threatened by onrush of flood water from the Teesta, the Brahmaputra and the Karotoa rivers.

The marooned people of the locality are facing acute crisis of food, pure drinking water and fire wood, the sources said.

The district administration has distributed Tk five lakh and 315 bags of flour, 92 bags of pulse, 100 cartons of biscuits, 300 pieces of saree, 300 pieces of lungi among the affected people.

Beside, Tk 1,11000 were also distributed among the affected people as housebuilding grant, the sources added.

Diarrhoea claims 12 more lives

Diarrhoea has claimed another 12 lives is Sadar and Sakullapur upazilas of the district.

Of them, 8 died at Idulpur of Sakullapur upazila, two at Palashbari and one each at Sadar and Gobindagonj.